

## **MMWR Weekly COVID-19 Briefing for the week of June 29, 2020**

*[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Hello, I'm Charlotte Kent, Editor in Chief of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Thanks for joining me for MMWR's Weekly COVID-19 Briefing for the week of June 29, 2020. This week, MMWR highlighted important insights on testing and infection control practices in congregate settings, as well as, sources of exposure during the early phases of the pandemic.

Congregate settings, such as skilled nursing facilities and correctional facilities, pose unique challenges to controlling the spread of COVID-19. Three of the reports published this week provide more in depth understanding about effective strategies for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

In a report published on Monday, June 29, investigators looked at the impact of serial testing, or testing individuals several times, on the spread of the virus in a Louisiana correctional facility. The report found that more than 70% of close contacts tested positive during serial testing. A quarter of cases were identified through testing at a second or third time.

A report published on Wednesday, July 1, on testing for COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities in Detroit also showed the importance of repeat testing in congregate settings. Repeatedly testing residents in 26 skilled nursing facilities helped detect a 44% attack rate across these facilities and identified infections among people who were not showing any symptoms.

Lastly, a report published on Thursday, July 2, looked at infection control practices in a Wyoming psychiatric facility after two newly admitted patients tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Expanded and adapted standard infection control procedures were implemented to suit the unique needs of the patient population and facility. These included adapting face coverings for some patients who might cause harm with traditional face coverings. After the implementation of these expanded and adapted procedures, no additional cases of COVID-19 in residents or staff were identified.

To reduce COVID-19 exposures in congregate settings, all three reports highlight the importance of prompt detection of cases through testing, including repeat testing of asymptomatic people, and then isolation of these cases.

This week, we also learned critical information about how and where people may have been getting infected during the early phases of the pandemic. This information can inform public health messaging and measures that could be used after communities reopen.

Two MMWR reports published on Tuesday, June 30, looked at the source of exposures to COVID-19. One of these reports, a telephone survey of 364 people with COVID-19 in Colorado, found that nearly half of participants reported close contact, in the 2 weeks before they became ill, with someone who had COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19. The other report surveyed people with COVID-19 who sought care from one of 11 medical centers nationwide. This report also found that only about half of participants could identify close contact with anyone known to have COVID-19 during the two weeks before they got sick. In both studies, about half of infections were likely from community exposures. These studies underscore the importance of taking steps to protect yourself and others: wash your hands, wear a face covering, limit close contact with people who don't live in your household.

Thank you for joining us on this week's briefing. To keep up to date on the latest MMWR reports on COVID – 19, go to [cdc.gov/mmwr](https://cdc.gov/mmwr) and subscribe for free. You can also subscribe to this podcast at [cdc.gov/mmwrpodcasts](https://cdc.gov/mmwrpodcasts).

Stay safe and stay well.

*[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO*